

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

If a packet processing controller at a consumer node has failed to process a received packet within a predetermined amount of time, a packet processing control timer detects a  
5 time-out and informs a CPU of that. In response, the CPU issues packet processing suspend instruction and packet transmit instruction for the controller by way of a register. In accordance with these instructions, the controller suspends the current packet processing and produces header and data  
10 for a WRS packet, which is transmitted to a producer node through a bus. In this manner, a packet can be processed without causing a time-out at the producer node.